

dependence upon the defined position or direction.

27. A method of processing data defining a three-dimensional computer model, comprising:

5       receiving data defining a three-dimensional computer model and data defining at least one of a position and a direction relative to the three-dimensional computer model; and

10       generating data defining a virtual viewing camera relative to the three-dimensional computer model in dependence upon the defined position or direction.

15       28. A method according to claim 26 or claim 27, further comprising generating image data by rendering the three-dimensional computer model in dependence upon the virtual viewing camera.

20       29. A method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of transmitting a signal conveying the generated image data.

25       30. A system for recording images of a subject object, and for processing the image data to generate data defining a three-dimensional computer model of the subject object, and rendering the three-dimensional

computer model to generate an image thereof to show a predetermined part of the subject object, comprising:

a calibration pattern having a position or direction defined relative thereto; and

5 a data processor comprising:

a position and orientation calculator operable to process data defining images of the subject object and calibration pattern recorded from different relative recording positions and orientations to calculate the relative positions and orientations at which the images were recorded by comparing the calibration pattern in the images with stored data defining the calibration pattern;

10 a computer model generator operable to generate data defining a three-dimensional computer model of the subject object relative to the stored calibration pattern using the calculated positions and orientations; and

15 an image data generator operable to generate data defining an image of the three-dimensional computer model showing the selected part of the subject object using a viewing camera defined relative to the stored calibration pattern.

20 31. A system of connected computer processing apparatus for processing images of a subject object to generate data defining a three-dimensional computer model of the

25

subject object and for processing the three-dimensional computer model to generate an image thereof showing a predetermined part of the subject object, comprising:

5 a first apparatus operable to send to a second apparatus data defining images of a subject object together with a calibration pattern recorded from different relative recording positions and orientations, the subject object being positioned relative to the calibration pattern so that a selected part of the  
10 subject object which is to appear in the image of the three-dimensional computer model faces in a predetermined direction relative to the calibration pattern; and

a second apparatus having:

15 a position and orientation calculator operable to process the data defining the images to calculate the relative positions and orientations at which the images were recorded by comparing the calibration pattern in the images with stored data defining the calibration pattern; and

20 a computer model generator operable to generate data defining a three-dimensional computer model of the subject object relative to the stored calibration pattern using the calculated positions and orientations;

25 and further comprising an image data generator in the second apparatus or in a third apparatus operable to